



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 86-0860

21 MAR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ms. Sally Kelley
Director of Agency Liaison Presidential
Correspondence
The White House

SUBJECT: White House Request for Information on
Alleged CIA Knowledge of Official Honduran
Government Involvement in Certain Activities

REFERENCE: Referral Letter of 12 March 1986, ID #377968

1. The following information is provided in response to the three questions posed by Mr. Gerry E. Studds (D., MA) on page two of his letter of 21 February 1986:

(5) (1)
(2) (3)

Question 1: Were any U.S. officials aware that murders were being carried out by U.S. trained Honduran military personnel during the period from 1981 to 1984 and, if so, what actions were taken in response to that knowledge?

Answer: During the period in question, 1981 to 1984, the CIA never obtained or provided to U.S. officials any information confirming that CIA-trained Honduran military personnel had participated in death squad activity. At the time, there were extensive rumors of official Honduran involvement in death squad activities. The CIA directed [REDACTED] resources to determine if there were any truth to the rumors. Subsequent to the period in question, the CIA obtained information on official Honduran Government involvement in death squad activity and has made this information available to both intelligence oversight committees.

Question 2: Were any U.S. officials aware that murders were being carried out in Honduras by persons affiliated with the FDN during this period and, if so, what actions were taken in response to that knowledge?

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Answer: While there were rumors that the FDN was involved in political murders, we have never developed any information that confirmed this. The CIA was then and continues to be aware that accusations of FDN involvement in such activities severely hurt the FDN's cause and its image.

Question 3: Has any official of the U.S. Government attempted to influence the military assignment, promotion, or continued military service of officers of the Honduran Army, or in any other way sought to discourage the public disclosure by the Honduran armed forces of the facts surrounding the murders and disappearances that occurred during this period?

Answer: The CIA has not tried to cover up or discourage the publication of information on death squad activities. The Agency understands the high priority that the American people and Congress attach to ending human rights abuses in Central America. More specifically, no CIA officer has tried to influence assignments, promotions, or continued military service of officers in the Honduran Army.

2. Attached is a copy of your correspondence to us per your request.

/s/ David D. Gries

David D. Gries
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Attachment
As stated

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HA/OCA [REDACTED] (20 Mar 86)